

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/IMS:WSSHEPARD:LGR
APPROVED BY EA/IMS:EDWARD C. INGRAHAM
-----260414Z 048971 /14
R 260032Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ENRG, MY, OTRA

SUBJECT: LIQUIFIED NATURAL GAS MALAYSIAN PETROLEUM
OFFICIAL'S VISIT TO U.S.

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 3087.

1. WE HAVE BEEN LOOKING INTO THE MATTER OF APPOINTMENTS
FOR MR. MOHAMAD SHARIF IN SAN FRANCISCO PER REFTTEL, AND
HAVE LOCATED THE FOLLOWING CONTACTS, WHOSE NAMES MIGHT
BE FURNISHED SHARIF.

2. U.S. COAST GUARD, REAR ADMIRAL PRICE, COMMANDANT,
ELEVENTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT, LOS ANGELES, (TEL 213-
590-2211). VICE ADMIRAL A.C. WAGNER, TWELFTH COAST GUARD
DISTRICT, SAN FRANCISCO (TEL 415-556-3860). U.S. MARITIME
ADMINISTRATION, THOMAS PATTERSON, JR., DIRECTOR, 450
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GOLDEN GATE AVENUE (TEL 415-556-3816). U.S. MARITIME
COMMISSION, LEONARD NORDGREN, 25TH FLOOR, 525 MARKET
STREET, (TEL 415-556-5272). ALSO, JOHN MARINO, MANAGER,
TRAFFIC DIVISION, P.G. AND E. (TEL 415-781-2115).

3. WE ARE INFORMALLY ADVISED THAT CALLS ON MARITIME
COMMISSION AND MARITIME ADMINISTRATION WOULD NOT BE VERY

USEFUL. THE FORMER'S ROLE IN LNG IS REPORTEDLY "LIMITED

TO MAKING SURE THAT CARRIERS ARE COVERED BY INSURANCE IN THE EVENT OF AN EXPLOSION". THE LATTER HAS A PROMOTIONAL ROLE FOR U.S. SHIPS AND UNDERSTANDS THAT FOR THE PETRONAS PROJECT, OTHER NON-US SHIPS ARE ALREADY ARRANGED. LNG MATTERS ARE SAID TO BE THE COAST GUARD'S PROVINCE.

4. WE ARE ALSO TOLD THAT IF HE IS AVAILABLE DURING THAT PERIOD, REAR ADMIRAL PRICE, WHO HAD TAKEN A LEADING ROLE IN COAST GUARD LNG POLICY FORMULATIONS, WOULD BE A VALUABLE CONTACT FOR SHARIF, DESPITE THE FACT THAT HE IS IN LOS ANGELES. THE OFFICIAL BOOKLET ON THE SUBJECT "LNG-VIEWS AND PRACTICES: POLICY AND SAFETY", DATED FEBRUARY 1976, WAS WRITTEN UNDER HIS DIRECTION AND COPIES ARE AVAILABLE AT EITHER COAST GUARD OFFICE.

5. IN VIEW OF FOREGOING, SHARIF SHOULD CONSIDER CALLS ON READ ADMIRAL PRICE (OR ADMIRAL WAGNER), AND APPROPRIATE P.G. AND E. OFFICE. WE HAVE INFORMED MALAYSIAN EMBASSY OF SHARIF'S VISIT, AND THEY POINT OUT THAT MALAYSIAN TRADE OFFICE IN SAN FRANCISCO COULD HANDLE SPECIFIC ARRANGEMENTS ONCE SHARIF'S PREFERENCES ARE KNOWN. PLEASE ADVISE, PLUS DETAILS REGARDING SEMINAR SHARIF WILL ATTEND. WHAT IS SHARIF'S ROLE IN CHOOSING CONSULTANT SERVICES FOR BUILDING THE LNG PROJECT, AND IN SELLING THE GAS? VANCE

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